

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SSC-01 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ACDA-10 SCCT-01 /103 W

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P R 281550Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5139

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0489

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RH, PINS, PINT

SUBJ: RHODESIA: AFRICANS TO CABINET

REF: CAPE TOWN 451

1. IN RADIO AND TELEVISION ADDRESS EVENING APRIL 27 IAN SMITH ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO APPOINT FOUR TRIBAL CHIEFS AS CABINET MINISTERS AND THREE OTHER BLACKS AS DEPUTY MINISTERS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THREE MORE AFRICANS WILL BE GIVEN DEPUTY MINISTERIAL JOBS AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE. SMITH DID NOT ANNOUNCE THE NAMES OF THOSE CHIEFS TO BE SELECTED; HOWEVER, PRESS SPECULATED THAT HE WILL DO SO SHORTLY-- PERHAPS UNCLASSIFIED

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WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. SMITH'S ANNOUNCEMENT HAD BEEN EXPECTED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS (REFTEL), BUT NEW PLAN HAD APPARENTLY MET STIFF OPPOSITION FROM SOME SENIOR CABINET MEMBERS THUS CAUSING THE DELAY.

3. SMITH JUSTIFIED CABINET APPOINTMENT OF CHIEFS ON GROUNDS THAT THEY ARE TRUE LEADERS OF AFRICAN PEOPLE. ARGUMENTS THAT THEY SHOULD STAY OUT OF POLITICS ARE "FALLACIOUS". HE NOTED THAT WITH INCREASED INDUSTRIALIZATION AND URBANIZATION MORE AFRICANS WERE BECOMING REMOVED FROM TRIBAL STRUCTURE AND INDICATED THAT, THEREFORE, AT LEAST SOME OF THE AFRICAN DEPUTY MINISTERS WILL NOT BE TRADITIONAL LEADERS.

4. IN SAME SPEECH SMITH REAFFIRMED LONG-HELD POSITIONS ON MAJORITY RULE, STATED THAT NEITHER HE NOR HIS COLLEAGUES ARE IN ANY MOOD FOR APPEASEMENT AND PLEDGED THAT WAR ON TERRORISTS WOULD BE STEPPED UP. BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, CABINET, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, MINORITIES, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAPET00489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760161-0625
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760412/aaaaajle.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CAPE TOWN 451
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 SEP 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: AFRICANS TO CABINET
TAGS: PINS, PINT, RH, (SMITH, IAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006